



THE BLENHEIM BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

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Guest Speaker – James Gropp

Deputy Head of Department Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT)

Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 7.00pm

Marlborough Aero Club – Clubrooms – Aerodrome Road Omaka

Members, non-members, interested persons and guests welcome- please forward this notice

Tea and Coffee available, Dress - Casual

A voluntary gold coin donation is requested from non-members to defray supper costs

James' presentation will cover his 23-year career in the U.S. Air Force and his current career at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) where he leads the aviation training programme – providing world class training in civilian and military engineering from RNZAF Base Woodbourne. He will also cover recent research he has been involved in and the very recent Drones for Business Seminar that he facilitated with major NZ industry stakeholders and regulators.

James joined the U.S. Air Force in 1982 and trained as an aircraft electrician. During his military career he was based in multiple locations globally and worked with many aircraft types including the SR-71, U-2, KC-135Q, T-38, HC and EC-130s, MH-53J Pavehaws and F-16 and F15 fighter aircraft.

He held multiple USAF roles including training manager, squadron deployment manager, squadron First Sergeant, Maintenance Superintendent, Lockheed Martin tiger team member and accident investigation team member.

After his retirement from the USAF, James remained in the UK with his wife Lynda and their two children where he managed a Part 43 aircraft maintenance company before immigrating to New Zealand in 2006.

James joined the NMIT team in 2010 where he completed his Tertiary Teaching qualifications and became a Senior Academic staff member, programme coordinator and then Deputy Head of Department. James has been an active participant in multi-institute research for Ako Aotearoa and presented at the national educational level for conferences and symposiums. Additionally, James was the project lead in NMIT School of Aviation becoming New Zealand's first NZCAA Part 147 maintenance training organization and serves as the schools Quality & Safety Manager. He is a member of the Aviation NZ Training Group, is a Service IQ Workplace Assessor and a member of the Aircraft Electronics Association.

To assist your planning, we aim to hold Branch presentations on the third Wednesday each month.